

Important Personalities of Rajasthan

In every era, the world has witnessed the birth of such individuals, who have shown a new path to the society. In the pages we have read about many such personalities, and here we will discuss some more important personalities of our State.

Nihalchand

He is given the credit for taking Kishangarh style of painting to its zenith. He adorned the court of Kishangarh under the rule of Sawant Singh. He immortalized Sawant Singh and his beloved Bani-Thani as Radha Krishna in his paintings. The painting of Bani-Thani is also famously known as the Indian 'Monalisa'.

Panna Dhai

Heera panna mokla, khodya khaan pahaad.
Asli panna to janai, maati dhaar Mewar.

An example of devotion, renunciation and sacrifice, Panna Dhai was born in Hankla Gurjar family in Pandoli village near Chittor. Panna was married to Surajmal, appointed in the army of Maharana Sanga (1509-28 AD). A few days after the birth of Panna's son Chandan, Maharani Karnawati of Mewar gave birth to prince Udaisingh. According to the contemporary traditions, Panna was appointed as foster-mother of prince Udaisingh.

In the year 1535 A.D one of the feudal lords of Mewar Banveer had assassinated Maharana Vikramaditya and subsequently attempted to murder his son, prince Uday Singh. When Panna came to know about Banveer's intentions, she placed her son Chandan on Uday's bed and watched Banveer slew her own son. In this way she saved the life of prince Uday and sent him away to Kumbhalgarh. This selfless sacrifice of Panna Dhai for the kingdom of Mewar is an unforgettable incident in the history of Mewar.

Gaura Dhai (1646-1704 AD)

The significance of Gaura Dhai in Marwar is same as that of Panna Dhai in Mewar. The courageous Gaura Dhai was born on 4 June 1646 to Ratnoji Tak and Roopa in a Mali family in Jodhpur. She was married to Manohar Gopi Malawat of Mandore. After Maharaja Jaswant Singh of Jodhpur died in Jamrud in 1678, his chieftains wanted to take the Maharaja's family safely to Jodhpur. On the way, the queen of Maharaja Jaswant Singh gave birth to Ajit Singh. On receiving this news, Aurangzeb called Jaswant Singh's family to Delhi. Knowing Aurangzeb's intentions, Veer Durgadas thought of a strategy to save Maharaja's successor prince Ajit Singh. Veer Durgadas and other loyal chieftains of Marwar hatched a plan to save the prince from the royal guard by disguising Gaura Dhai as a simple sweeper. She brought the prince out safely in a crate by placing him in place of her son Ajit Singh. The prince was handed over by Gaura Dhai to Mukund Das Khinchi who had disguised as a snake charmer. Thus Gaura Dhai saved the life of the heir to the kingdom of Jodhpur.

The unique sacrifice of Gaura Dhai is sung in the national song of Jodhpur state, Dhusan. In her memory, a six-pillared Chhatri was built in Jodhpur in 1711 AD. There is a Baori (stepwell) named Roopa Dhai Gaura Dhai in Jodhpur.

Gavari Bai

Born to a Brahman family of Nagar in Dungarpur district, she was a poet dedicated to Krishna. She is also known as Meera of Wagad. Maharawal Shiv Singh of Dungarpur had the Balmukund Mandir constructed in 1829 for Gavri Bai.

Durgadas Rathore

Veer Shiromani Durgadas, who is known in history for his loyalty and chivalry, was the son of Askaran, the minister of Maharaja Jaswant Singh. He was born on 13 August, 1638 in Salwa village of Marwar. He served in the army of Jaswant Singh. Following the demise of the Maharaja, he rescued the queens of the Maharaja along with Ajit Singh the heir of Jodhpur (which was declared the Khalsa land by Aurangzeb) throne. By forming Rathore-Sisodia alliance he fought against the Mughal emperor, Aurangzeb, till Aurangzeb's death in 1707. He helped

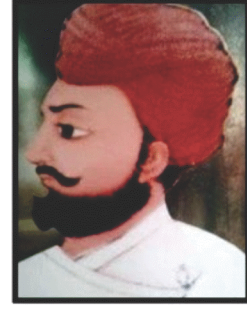


Durgadas Rathore prince Akbar against Aurangzeb and performed his duties as a true friend by giving Islamic education to his son and daughter (Buland Akhtar and Safiyatunissa). Later on, due to some differences over certain matter with Maharaja Ajit Singh, he left Jodhpur and went to Mewar with his family. This shows his independent bent of mind and strength of character. He died in Ujjain on November 22, 1718. Till today he is revered and remembered in Rajasthan for his loyalty and valour. There is a

famous adage – ‘Oh mother! give birth to a son like Durgadas’.

Dursa Adha

He was a contemporary of Akbar and he eulogized patriotism of Maharana Pratap and Rao Chandrasen. His more acclaimed writings include Viruddh Chhahattari (the most famous), Kirtaar Baavni and Veeram Deo Solanki Ra Duha.



Dursa Adha

Dayaldas

Dayaldas, the writer of Bikaner Ri Rathodari Khyat, was born in 1798 A.D in Kudiya village of Bikaner. The handwritten copy of Dayaldas Ri Khyat mentions the history from the rise of the Rathores to the enthronement of Sardar Singh in 1851. This Khyat gives detailed account of the Bikaner Dynasty, and their relations with the Mughals and the Marathas. It is an important document which helps in understanding the administrative system of Bikaner and translations of decree, nishaan etc. in Rajasthani.

Kaviraj Shyamal Das

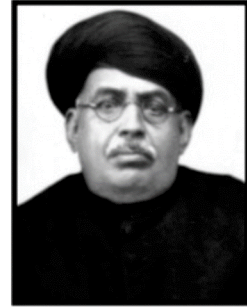
Kaviraj Shyamal Das, the court poet of Maharana of Mewar, Shambhu Singh and his son Maharana Sajjan Singh, was born in 1836 in Dhokaliya (Bhilwara). He started writing history of the Mewar state on being asked by Maharana Shambhu Singh, which is compiled in Veer Vinod. British Indian Government conferred on him the title of Kesar-e-Hind and Maharana of Mewar bestowed upon him the title of Kaviraja.



Kaviraj Shyamal Das

Gaurishankar Heerachand Ojha

This famous historian and archaeologist of Rajasthan was born in 1863 in Rohida (Sirohi). He had thorough knowledge of ancient scripts and wrote a famous text Lipimala. British bestowed upon him the title of Mahamahopadhyaya and Rai Bahadur. He made the history of Rajasthan prosperous by writing the history of many princely states of Rajasthan.



**Gaurishankar
Heerachand Ojha**

Bavji Chatur Singh

Folk Saint Chatur Singh, who belonged to the Mewar royal family, was born in 1879 in Karjali village of Mewar. He became a widower briefly after marriage and engaged himself in religious work and social service. He spent his life in a hut in Sukher village near Udaipur, practicing yoga, contemplating and writing literature for common folk. He was well versed in Sanskrit and Rajasthani language. His main

works are Gangajali commentary of Bhagwad Gita, Parmarth Vichaar, commentary on Yoga Sutra, commentary on Sankhya Tatva, Manav Mitra Ra Charitra, Shesh Charitra, Alakh Pachisi, Anubhav Prakash, Chatur Prakash, Chatur Chintamani, Samaj Battisi etc. While trying to create public awareness through his works, throughout his life, Chatur Singh died in 1929. Explaining about good and bad people he wrote-

Kaarad to kahto firae, har keeni haknaak,
Janri whae unne kahae, hiyo lifafo raakh.

Birbal Singh

Birbal Singh, the member of Bikaner Praja Parishad, was born in Raisingh Nagar of Bikaner district. He always raised his voice against feudal exploitation and was at the forefront of every movement for civil rights. Praja Parishad called a workers' conference on June 30, 1946 at Raisingh Nagar to decide upon the future line of action. On July 1, 1946 the workers reached the conference venue to pay obeisance to the tricolour. In the meanwhile, they got the news of arrest of workers and the atrocities inflicted on them by the police at the railway station. They started moving towards the station under the leadership of Birbal Singh. The government official in his nervousness ordered firing on the workers. Birbal Singh got injured but did not let the tricolour to fall down. Though he was wounded, he kept on saying, "let our flag always fly high" ("jhanda ooncha rahe hamara").

Vijaydan Detha

Born on September 1, 1926 at Borunda in Jodhpur, his famous stories and novels are Baatan Ri Phulwaari (Collection of folk Tales 1960-1975), Baapu Ke Teen Hatyare (Criticism,1948), Choudhrayan Ki Chaturai (Short Story Collection,1996), Duvidha and Alekhu Hitler. He is also the co-founder of Rupayan Sansthan, Borunda. Vijaydan Detha, also known as Bijji, received numerous awards for his works which include Kendriya Sahitya Academy award in 1975, Bhartiya Bhasha Parishad award in 1992, Bihari Puraskar in 2002, Sahitya Chudamani award in 2006, Padma Shri award in 2007 and Rajasthan Ratna in 2012. His stories and novels have been adapted to make films, which include Mani Kaul's Duvidha which was later remade by Amol Palekar as Paheli.

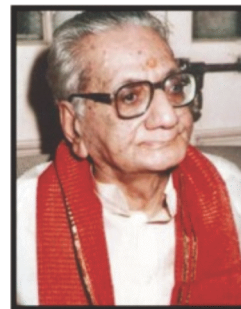


Vijaydan Detha

Kanhaiya Lal Sethia

The writer of immortal Rajasthani popular song 'dharti dhoran ri' and famous song 'paathal aur -peethal', Kanhaiya Lal Sethia was born on September 11, 1919 in Sujangarh (Churu), Rajasthan. After receiving education in Sujangarh and Calcutta,

in 1934, he came in contact with Gandhiji and engaged himself in the work of Khadi movement and dalit upliftment. In 1941 his first collection of poetry 'Vanphool' was published. He was accused of treason because of his poetry collection 'Agniveena' (1942) which had the theme of patriotism and nationalism. He was also active in the Quit India Movement. In 1945, as a key worker of the Bikaner Praja Parishad, Sethia while opposing feudalism awakened the farmer community through his poem 'Kun zameen ro dhani'. During the integration of Rajasthan, he struggled to get Abu included in Rajasthan. He played an important role preserving the heritage of Rajasthan by taking active part in the Fourth centenary celebration of Haldighati (1976), Chitrakoot Mela (1976), Western Cultural Council (Udaipur) etc.



Kanhaiya Lal Sethiya

Sethia was honored with many awards for his literary works. In 1976, he was awarded by the Kendriya Sahitya Academy, New Delhi for his work 'Leeltaans'. In 1988 he was awarded Murtidevi award for 'Nirgranth', Suryamal Mishra award for 'Sabad' in 1987 and Taatia award for 'Satvadi'. He was awarded Padmashri in 2004 and 'Rajasthan Ratna' in 2012. Sethia also worked tirelessly towards getting constitutional recognition for the Rajasthani language. Kanhaiyalal Sethia died on November 2008 in Calcutta.

Allah Jilai Bai

Allah Jilai Bai, the renowned Mand singer immortalized the song 'kesariya balama aoni padharo mahare des...' through her voice. She was born on February 1, 1902 in Bikaner. For her exceptional contribution to the Mand gayaki (singing), she was awarded Padma Shri in 1982. BBC London also honoured Jilai Bai with Court Singer Award in 1983 at Royal Albert hall.



Allah Jilai Bai

Gavari Devi

The credit of making Maand style of folk singing famous on national and international platform goes to folk singer Gavari Devi. She was born in 1920 in Jodhpur. Gavari Devi inherited her musical talent from her parents. Her mother & father were famous musicians in the Bikaner court. She mesmerized the audience of Bharat Mahotsav held in Moscow with her maand singing.

Company Hawildar Major Piru Singh

Born on May 20, 1918 in Rampura Beri in Jhunjhunu, Major Piru Singh got enrolled in 6th battalion Rajput Rifles. On July 18, 1948 CHM Piru Singh was assigned task to attack and



Piru Singh

capture an enemy occupied hill at Tithwal. Before he breathed his last, he demolished all the enemy posts. He was awarded Paramveer Chakra posthumously. He was the first from Rajasthan to get this honour.

Major Shaitan Singh

Major Shaitan Singh, also famous as 'Banasur Ka Shaheed' was born on December 1, 1924 in Bansur village of Phalodi tehsil in Jodhpur. Shaitan Singh joined Indian army.

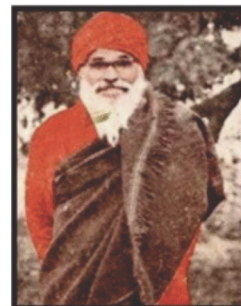


Major Shaitan Singh

On November 17, 1962, when China attacked Chushul post in the Laddakh region, Major Shaitan Singh and his Charlie company was given charge of defending this post. With the help of his 120 soldiers, he forced Chinese army to retreat twice. He was left with only two soldiers and was seriously injured but kept on moving. He ordered his men to leave and inform the check post. He alone gave a tough fight to the enemy and finally succumbed to his injuries on November 18, 1962 at the age of 38. Major Shaitan Singh was awarded Param Veer Chakra posthumously for his extraordinary courage and bravery.

Swami Keshwanand

Educationist and saint, Swami Keshwanand was born to Choudhary Thakarsi in Magloona village of Sikar in 1883. He was influenced by Gandhian style of politics and participated in Indian freedom movement from 1921 to 1931 and even went to jail. In 1932 he became Director of a Jat school in Sangaria. Under his directorship this middle school developed into a college. Within the precincts of the school, he opened an art, an agriculture and a science college along with teacher training institute and also developed a museum and established the Gramotthan Vidyapith. He also opened almost 300 schools between 1944 to 1956 in the desert villages of Bikaner. He also established mobile reading rooms and libraries at various places.



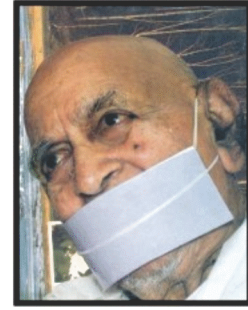
Swami Keshwanand

Pt. Jhabarmal Sharma

Famous as 'patriarch of journalism' Pt. Jhabarmal Sharma was born in 1880 at Jasrapur. Pt. Durgaprasad Mishra gave him education in Hindi journalism and editing. He edited many books which include – Sikar ka Itihaas, Khetri ka Itihaas, Khetri Naresh and Vivekanand, Adarsh Naresh, Sri Arvind Charit, Hindi Geeta Rahasya Saar, Aatm Vigyan Shiksha, Tilak Gatha, Bhartiya Godhan etc.

Acharya Tulsi

Founder of Anuvrata Movement, Acharya Tulsi was born in Ladnun in the Nagaur district on October 20, 1914. He became ninth acharya of Terapanth Sect at the age of 22. He launched the Anuvrata Movement in 1949 for the development of ethical values and travelled one lakh kilometers on foot to connect people with this movement. His message to society is – ‘a man is a man first, Hindu or Muslim afterwards’.



Acharya Tulsi

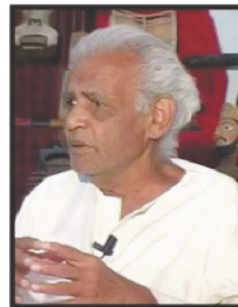
Acharya Nanesh Muni (1920-1999 AD)

He was born to Modilal Singaarbai in Danta village of Mewar. His childhood name was Govardhan (Nana). Even in his childhood he was full of detachment. In search of a suitable Guru he reached Ganeshlalji Maharaj in Kota and made him his Guru. He received initiation on Vikram Samvat 1996 Pausha Shukla Ashtami in Kapasan village near Danta. In 1952 he was given the post of Acharya by the Guru.

Acharya Nanesh Muni gave the message of Samta philosophy to get a peaceful environment in this turbulent world. He said that religion is the only way to maintain equality in every situation in life. He developed the method of meditation so that one can lead a stress free life. Under his leadership 59 Saints and 310 Yatis got initiation of Jain Bhagwati. He freed the people of Balai caste of Malwa province from bad addictions like eating non-vegetarian food and led them on the path of non-violence and truth. He authored the book ‘Samta darshan and behavior’ in which a detailed discussion of harmony has been given. He strived for social consciousness throughout his life.

Komal Kothari

Komal Kothari was born in Kapasan town of Chittorgarh district on March 4, 1929. He devoted his whole life for the promotion of folk culture. In 1960, he founded Rupayan Sansthan at Borunda in Jodhpur district.



Kripal Singh Shekhawat

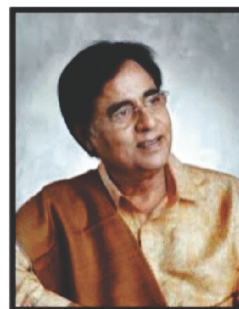
‘Shilpguru’ Kripal Singh Shekhawat was born in 1922 in Mau village of Sikar district. He earned international acclaim for his portraiture on Blue Pottery. He was conferred with the Padma Shri in 1974.

Komal Kothari

Kripal Singh Shekhawat

Jagjit Singh

Jagjit Singh was born in Sri Ganganagar to a Sikh family on February 8, 1941 and passed away on October 10, 2011. He established himself as a world-renowned musician and ghazal singer. He was conferred upon the Rajasthan Ratna by the Rajasthan government posthumously on March 31, 2012.



Jagjit Singh

Pt. Vishwa Mohan Bhatt

He was born in Jaipur on 12 July, 1950. From 1965 he started giving musical performances on national and international platforms. In 1994 he was awarded with the famous Grammy Award. By fusing the guitar with sitar, sarod, and 14 extra strings of the veena he invented the Mohan Veena.



Pt. Vishwa Mohan Bhatt

Karpurchand Kulish

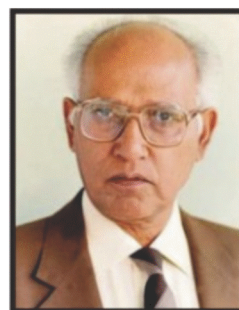
Karpurchand Kulish was born on March 20, 1926 in Soda village in Tonk district. He started his career as a journalist in 1951 and on March 7, 1956 launched the Rajasthan Patrika as an evening daily, which has gone on to become a leading Hindi daily. During the time of emergency (1975), he travelled to villages of Rajasthan and started his series 'mein dekhta chala gaya' on rural life and society of Rajasthan. It is also considered to be an authentic source of rural life in Rajasthan. Kulish also contributed a regular column in Dhundari dialect entitled polampol which is considered to be his literary heritage.



Karpurchand Kulish

Dr. P. K. Sethi

Dr P.K Sethi along with Ramchandra (who worked in Sawai Mansingh Hospital, Jaipur) co-invented the Jaipur foot, an artificial limb in the year 1969 for the handicapped. For this contribution he was awarded with Ramon Magsaysay Award, Dr. V. C. Roy award, Padma Shri, and Rotary International Award for World Understanding and Peace.



Dr. P.K. Sethi

Exercise

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Swami Keshwanand was born in which district?
(a) Sikar (b) Churu
(c) Nagore (d) Jaipur
2. Who is known as the father of Jaipur Foot?
(a) Dr P. K. Sethi (b) Dr P.K. Agarwal
(c) Dr Ashok (d) Dr V.C. Roy
3. 'Humans are first humans, Hindu or Muslim afterwards'. Who gave this message?
(a) Acharya Tulsi (b) Kaviraj Shyamaldas
(c) Komal Kothari (d) Kanahyia Lal Sethia
4. Who is famous as Wagad Ki Meera ?
(a) Gavri Bai (b) Panna Dhai
(c) Rana Bai (d) Karmawati
5. The first Rajasthani to be awarded the Paramveer Chakra?
(a) Piru Singh (b) Shaitaan Singh
(c) Virendra Singh (d) Ved Prakash

Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. When and where was Durgadas Rathore born ?
2. Major Shaitaan Singh headed which company of the Indian army ?
3. Karpurchand Kulish was founder of which newspaper ?
4. Who is the architect famous for illustrations on blue pottery ?
5. Who is known as doyen of journalism?
6. Who is the writer of Pracheen Lipimala text?
7. Which literateur is famous as Bijji?
8. Write one important piece of -work of Kaviraj Shyamaldas.
9. Who composed song 'Dharti Dhoran Ri'?

10. Match the Following :

Person	Area of Work
1. Pt. Jhabarmal Sharma	Journalism
2. Shaitaan Singh	Singing
3. Jagjeet Singh	Devotion/Bhakti
4. Gawri Bai	Bravery/Valour

Short Answer Type Questions

1. Describe the contribution of Swami Keshwanand in the field of education.
2. Why Durgadas Rathore occupies an eminent place in history?
3. Discuss contribution of martyr Birbal Singh in the Indian National Movement.
4. Mention the work done by Pt. Jhabarmal Sharma in the field of journalism.
5. Vijaydan Detha was an exceptional litterateur. Comment.

Project Work :

1. Collect information related to 10 important persons of your district in every sphere.